NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

Weekly Staff Newsletter
December 18, 1998

DIANNE DRAEGER
1959 - 1998

It is with deep sadness that we report the sudden passing of our co-worker **Dianne Draeger** early Monday morning, December 14. She began her career at The Field Museum as an intern in 1996 after receiving her MA in Museum Studies at the University of Nebraska. Dianne was hired full time as a collections management assistant for the NEH Grant in June of 1997. Her dedication and loyalty to the Anthropology collections and their care will be greatly missed. Dianne was instrumental on the development of collections protocol and data entry for the Collections Database. As a stickler for details, she fought for her beliefs. Her radiant smile and cheerful spirit were a wonderful asset to the department and the Museum.

Please join us this Tuesday, December 22 at 2:30 in the Maori House for a memorial to a wonderful coworker and dear friend.

Submitted by the Anthropology Department

ATTENTION ALL STAFF: EXTREMELY IMPORTANT PAYROLL INFORMATION

Due to the staff holiday on Friday, January 1, the time sheets for period ending Friday, December 25 **must be submitted to payroll by noon on Wednesday, December 23**. We need your cooperation because we are pressed for time and must transmit the payroll early. **If you do not follow through, you may not get paid.** If you plan to be away during the holidays, please leave your time sheet with a responsible individual or bring it to the Human Resources/Payroll office before you leave to ensure that you will be paid.

Since the New Year holiday falls on Friday, January 1 and this date is a national and staff holiday, we have changed the pay date to Thursday, December 31. All staff will be paid on Thursday. If you

Continued on the back page

FIELD NOTES

Week of December 21

Public Events/Special Events

Chicago Mountaineering Club
• Monday 6 p.m., MWH

FRIDAY – CHRISTMAS DAY

Holiday Festivities
• Saturday & Sunday 11 a.m., SFH
(Museum open until 8 p.m.)

Peaceable Kingdom
• Saturday & Sunday 10 a.m.
MWH, Clrms A & B, LH2

Staff/Volunteer Events

Dianne Draeger Memorial
• Tuesday 2:30 p.m., Maori House

Aerobics
• Tuesday & Thursday 5 p.m.
Ground Floor, East Stairwell

THERE WILL BE NO *NATURAL NEWS* NEXT WEEK DUE TO THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY. THE FOLLOWING WEEK'S ISSUE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON *THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31*, SO ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE TUESDAY NOON DEADLINE.

NEW DENTAL PLAN!!! NEW DENTAL PLAN!!! NEW DENTAL PLAN!!

We are very excited about the new Delta Dental plan coming February 1, 1999.

You will now have more choices when selecting a dentist; you can choose either an HMO dentist, a PPO dentist or a dentist outside Delta Dental networks (your own dentist).

Delta has an extensive network of dentists for both the HMO and PPO options. In fact, you will find that most dentists in the Chicago area have some affiliation with Delta Dental whether they be in the HMO or PPO Networks, or have just agreed to charge specified prices for services.

There is a chance that your current dentist is not part of Delta Dental's HMO network. If this is true, you can select another dentist from Delta Dental's HMO network or choose the PPO plan and remain with your current dentist.

Booklets listing dentists in both the PPO and HMO networks will be included with your open enrollment materials that will be mailed later this month.

Want to know more about how your new dental plan works? Plan to attend an informational meeting:

Tuesday, January 5, 1999
Lecture Hall 1
8 a.m., 11 a.m. or 3 p.m.
(meetings will last about 30 minutes)

You will have more benefit levels to choose from and different benefit costs at each level, so mark your calendar for January 5 for more details.

Submitted by **Carole Kasarda**

Staff and Volunteers are invited to a Keynote Presentation: An Evening with N. Scott Momaday

In conjunction with the *Origins* exhibition, The Field Museum is honored to host Scott Momaday, poet, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, playwright, painter and professor of English and American literature. He is Native American (Kiowa) and among his principal interests are Native American art and oral tradition. Born in Oklahoma and raised on Indian reservations in the Southwest, Momaday was already a published poet and scholar when his novel, *House Made of Dawn*, won the Pulitzer Prize in 1969. His achievement began what has been called the Native American renaissance, and he has inspired a generation of young Native American writers to take their rightful place in American arts and letters. His books include *The Way to Rainy Mountain*, *In the Presence of the Sun* and *The Man Made of Words*. Join us for this special evening with Mr. Momaday as he discusses origins. Staff and volunteers are invited to attend at no charge and can request a ticket for themselves and a guest (up to 2 tickets per staff/volunteer). Extra tickets may be purchased at the member rate ($10). Please see **Sandra Blake** or **Mark DeNardo** in the Education Department or call ext. 854 for your ticket(s).

Where: James Simpson Theater
When: Thursday, January 7
6:30 p.m.

Submitted by **Kristen Webber**

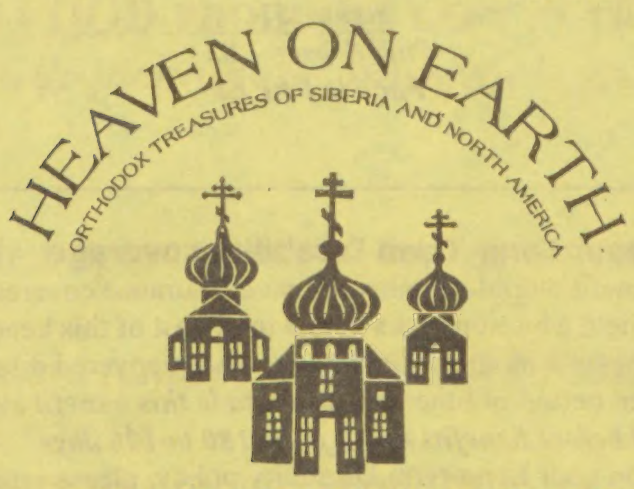
NOTICE OF WINTER MUSEUM HOURS

From Saturday, December 26 through Wednesday, December 30, the Museum will remain open until 8 p.m. The Museum will be open every Monday evening beginning January 4 through March 22.

Submitted by **Diane White**

PBS TELEVISION PREMIER

WTTW • CHANNEL 11 • CHICAGO



"HEAVEN ON EARTH"

A DOCUMENTARY ON THE TRAVELLING MUSEUM EXHIBIT COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY IN NORTH AMERICA, AND AN INDIGENOUS NATIVE ALASKAN CULTURE.

Filmed at Chicago's Field Museum and Produced for the Anchorage Museum of History & Art by Orthodox Faith Net, Inc.;
***MIRKO POPADIC** Producer,*
***GORDANA TRBUHOVICH**, Production Coordinator.*

FIRST 'LOWER 48' PBS SHOWING

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WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 30, 1998
7:30 P.M.

•

CHANNEL 11
CHICAGO

Information: (773) 227-1018

an Orthodox FaithNet Production

Save the date for the next Staff Movie Night

The next Staff Movie Night will be **Wednesday, January 13, 1999.** The featured movie will be *The Negotiator*, starring Samuel L. Jackson and Kevin Spacey. Chicago's top two negotiators face off against one another. One has taken hostages; the other must try to get them out.

Where: Montgomery Ward Hall
When: 5 p.m. Dinner, 6 p.m. Movie
Soda – $1
Wine & beer – $2
Food is FREE.

Submitted by **Randy Scalf**

New enhancement to your Long-Term Disability coverage

Did you know that all benefit eligible employees have insurance coverage for long term disability? You may not, because The Field Museum picks up the total cost of this benefit for you! This benefit pays a portion of your income on a monthly basis if you have a covered disability that prevents you from working for an extended period of time. ***We have made this benefit even better for you by reducing the waiting period before benefits begin from 180 to 120 days.***

For further information on your Long-term Disability policy, please refer to your Certificate of Insurance or call **Carole Kasarda** at ext. 529.

Submitted by **Carole Kasarda**

Tuesday at Noon Seminar Series continues

Our last seminar of the year was multidisciplinary, well-attended, and colorful. **John Weinstein** used 160 of his color slides (out of a total of more than 3000) to share with us his efforts and experiences in Kenya. The cave of the "man-eating lions of Tsavo" and areas surrounding the site began the program. We were given a good idea of how our zoologists are working with Kenya wildlife officials and how the cave site was being studied, as well as fine portraits of a variety of native wild creatures. Then, having traveled to the coast of the Indian Ocean, John was able to photograph the archaeological sites where **Chap Kusimba** has been doing his research. Local village life, animals in Nairobi National Park, and a fine sunset concluded a very informative program.

Submitted by **Bill Burger**

Break a Leg, Sandy!

We regret to announce the departure of **Sandy Karuschak**, the Museum's Director of Special Gifts, who was convinced to return to the theatre community by the Steppenwolf Theatre Company, which she will join in January as Director of Development. During her tenure at The Field Museum, Sandy was intrumental in securing underwriting for *Assignment: Rescue*, *Voyage of a Nation*, *The Art of the Motorcycle*, and the statewide Millennium Project. We will miss her, but we also wish her the very best in her new, expanded role with the Steppenwolf.

Please stop by the Campaign Center (lower level near McDonald's) on **Wednesday, December 30 between 3 and 5 p.m.** to say farewell and congratulations.

Submitted by **Willard White**

FOOD ☺ TRASH ☹ FOOD ☺ TRASH ☹ FOOD ☺

In an effort to kick off the cleaning project on January 4, 1999 (Clean-up Week), **THE HOUSEKEEPING STANDARDS COMMITTEE HAS IDENTIFIED A WAY TO CUT DOWN ON PESTS ARISING FROM FOOD PRODUCTS LEFT IN TRASH OVERNIGHT.** *Housekeeping will pick up the trash daily from the designated locations.*

Please follow these procedures to ensure that trash is not left overnight:

1. Staff should remove any **FOOD PRODUCT TRASH** on a daily basis.
2. Tie the bag securely to avoid fruit flies.
3. Take it to the designated area.
   - Third and Fourth Floors should take their trash to the recycling area which is by the freight elevator.
   - Ground Floor should take their trash to the recycling area which is by the picnic area.

Please make a note that the **Effective Date for this is Monday December 21, 1998**.
Should you have any questions, please contact one of the following people on the Housekeeping Standards Committee:

Diane White	ext. 564	Frantz Cartwright	ext. 380
Lou French	ext. 562	John Mazza	ext. 562
Laura Sadler	ext. 888	Cap Sease	ext. 369
Michael Paha	ext. 626	Ali Obaidallah	ext. 455
		Ernst Pierre-Toussaint	ext. 228

FOOD ☺ TRASH ☹ FOOD ☺ TRASH ☹ FOOD ☺

Dear Field Employees:

At this very moment, someone in your community is receiving help because of your support of The Field Museum's United Way campaign. Your contribution is helping over 2.5 million people in our metropolitan area meet practical wishes for food, clothing, a place to sleep, medical care, social services and the opportunity to learn.

I would like to personally thank everyone who participated in the 1998 United Way Campaign. Although our overall participation rate dropped from the previous year, those who chose to give, gave generously. The Field Museum's per capita giving level increased by a whopping 414% from the 1997 level. Way to go! We are responsible for giving $7478.20 to United Way programs which will be used to help build ***our*** community.

Payroll deductions began with the December 18th payroll. If you have questions regarding your donations or deductions please contact either Doris Yelvington at ext. 220 or myself at ext. 420.

If you would like to donate and have not done so yet, I am still accepting pledge forms in the Museum Affairs office.

Thank you all for caring and for making this year's successful campaign a rewarding one. In giving, you are raising hopes and helping other people reach their dreams.

Sincerely yours,

Marla Camp
United Way Chairperson

1999

January

1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 Museum open until 8:00pm	5 ELindzet-loading dock 8:00am-2:00pm BAdams-Lecture-JST 4:00pm-10:00pm	6 T-Special Events/Rice 5:00pm-10:00pm 50	7 LDini-Press Preview-SFH 10:00am-12:00pm PWrenn-SFH/Rice/JST/Origins Exh 5:00pm-9:00pm HR-Staff Preview/Origins Exh 3:00pm-4:30pm	8	9 Pullman Bank-SFH/Bal 7:00pm-10:00pm 300 Dinos & More-SFH/JST 11am-3pm
10 Dinos & More –SFH/JST 11am-3pm LSanders-Searle Lounge 6:00am-9:00am	11 Dinos & More - SFH/JST 11am-3pm Museum open until 8:00pm	12	13 LSanders-Searle Lounge/AOTM 5:30pm-7:30pm	14 Chase-SFH/Rice/Motorcycles 6:30pm-10:30pm 200	15 BAdams-SFH/JST 4pm-10pm Hyatt Regency Set-Up SFH all day and evening	16 BAdams-JST /Rice 8am-3pm Hyatt Regency-SFH/JST 6:00pm-10:00pm 1200 Ed-Activity Day-SFH 11:00am-3:00pm
17 PWrenn-Overnight	18 Museum open until 8:00pm	19 Pres. Ofc-Whole Museum	20 LSanders-SFH 5:30pm-7:30pm 200 Cinema Academy-JST 9:00am-1:00pm	21 BAdams-Motorcycle Exhibit/SFH/JST/Grd Flr 4:00pm-10:00pm T-Special Events-SFH LDini-MMee Exh-Press Preview-10:00am-12:00pm	22 JByrnes-Overnight	23 Deloitte & Touche-SFH SBell-JST 8am-5pm
24 SBell-JST 8am-5pm 31 RWagner-SFH 9:30am-3:00pm 250	25 Museum open until 8:00pm	26 Lenox Intl-Spago -- SFH/JST 6:00pm-12:00am CAndreson-SFH/JST 9:00am-1:00pm	27 SPowell-SFH Cinema Academy-JST 9:00am-1:00pm	28 SBell-SFH/JST/Grd Flr 6pm-10pm Cinema Academy-JST 9:00am-1:00pm	29 T-Special Events-Rice SPowell-Rice 11:00pm-3:00pm	30 Neomedica-SFH 6:30pm-12:00am 300 LSanders-SFH 5:30pm-7:30pm

NEWS FROM MUSEUM CAMPUS CHICAGO

As of Monday, December 14, the Museum Campus Trolley Service is in operation daily through Sunday, January 3. There are five trolleys (four that stop at the Adler, Field, Shedd and parking lots and one that stops at the Roosevelt red, green and orange lines and the Roosevelt Road Metra). Trolleys are in operation from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; trolleys will also be in service during the extended holiday hours of the Adler, Field, and Shedd. Trolleys will not be in service on December 20 and December 27 due to the Chicago Bears football games.

Adler, Field and Shedd will all be open on Thursday, December 24 and closed on Friday, December 25. Adler, Field and Shedd will all be open on Thursday, December 31. On New Year's Day, the Field and Shedd will be closed but the Adler will be open.

The Adler will extend its public hours until 9 p.m. from Saturday, December 26 through Wednesday, December 30. It will revert to the regular closing schedule of 6 p.m. beginning Thursday, December 31. The Shedd will extend its public hours until 8 p.m. from Sunday, December 27 through Wednesday, December 30.

The Chicago Park District's twelve Olympic-sized indoor and outdoor skating rinks have opened. The Museum Campus office has brochures (in English and Spanish) listing CPD ice rink locations, skate times and special events. All rinks offer free admission after school (and work) and during the weekends, so don't wait – get moving and skate! For a brochure, contact **Cheryl Giznik** at ext. 586.

Submitted by **Christina Breslow**

Tune in to "This American Life" featuring Lucia Lopez

Be sure to listen to "This American Life" with Ira Glass on WBEZ, 91.5 FM this Saturday, December 19, at 1 p.m. Lucia Lopez will be featured. Lucia's story was performed here as part of the "Teens Together" presentation of Music Theater Workshop, in conjunction with the opening of the *Living Together* exhibit. This episode is called "What are you looking at?"

Submitted by the Center for Cultural Understanding and Change

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Benefits notes...

You will be receiving your open enrollment materials soon! Remember to:

- Return open enrollment forms to Human Resources by **January 14, 1999.**
- Complete a new dental enrollment form (even if you are staying on the HMO).
- Complete a Blue Cross and Blue Shield "Application and Policy Change" form if you are making any changes to your health insurance.

* ***Important dates!*** *

- **Tuesday, January 5, 1999** – Delta Dental will be here to provide informational meetings regarding the new dental insurance. Plan to attend a meeting in Montgomery Ward Hall at either 8 a.m. 11 a.m. or 3 p.m.
- **Thursday, January 7, 1999** – The Annual Health and Benefits Fair will be held in Lecture Hall 2 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. **Don't miss mini-massages, a visit to the podiatrist, great raffle prizes and answers to questions on your benefits.**

Submitted by **Carole Kasarda**

PAYROLL from page 1

have direct deposit, your funds will be credited to your account on Thursday, December 31.

Because the pay date has been changed, you will have received a total of 27 paychecks for the year 1998 instead of the normal 26. This is something that occurs about every 10 years when you are paid on a biweekly pay cycle. Please understand that we will not suspend any of the normal deductions that are being withheld from your paycheck. However, if you specified that you wanted the deduction to stop at a certain limit then we will stop the deduction. For example, if you have instructed us to stop your TSA deduction at $10,000 and have reached that goal amount, we will not take the deduction from your December 31 paycheck. On the other hand if you have a flat amount of $50 per paycheck deducted, we will continue the deduction.

Submitted by the Payroll staff

$$ FINANCE FORUM $$

Thanks to all of you for your understanding and patience as we have operated with diminished staff during our finance software training sessions, which will soon be coming to a close. We are in a stage of transition and upheaval with our move to our new system, and the first few months of 1999 will bring some important changes that will affect the entire Museum. We are looking forward to providing all departments with an unprecedented level of service.

Happy Holidays and a peaceful New Year to one and all from the Finance Department.

Thanks for help with Dinosaurs and More

Special thanks are extended to Museum staff who have helped with the educational programming for the November and December Dinosaurs and More Festivals. Due to the efforts of the staff from Audio Visual, Visitor Services, Housekeeping, Engineering and Computer Services, we were able to offer six days of programming. During November, the theme of the festival was "Dinosaurs: Read More About It" and the festival allowed us to introduce our Dinosaur Book Trading Post. Visitors enjoyed the opportunity to trade dinosaur-related objects for a dinosaur book. Thanks to **Dave Pollack** who helped staff this activity. The November festival also featured an informative lecture by author Pat Shipman and a "Magical Reading Show" by Ronald McDonald.

In December, the theme was SUE, and we offered several T-rex related activities. **Dave Willard** and **Dan Summers** served as Scientists-on-the Floor. Dan reports that several Museum visitors came especially to see the demonstration "Trapped in Amber" that he staffed. Thanks are extended to the staff in Public Relations for the advance publicity. And of course, thanks to the volunteers who helped staff the events - *Life Over Time* volunteers, Sue Prep Lab facilitators, **Randall De Bouvre, Rick Cotta, Yvonne Curtis, Matthew Isoda, Lauren Jensen, Christian Nutall, Michael Roth, Joe Schroeter, Elena Schroeter** and **Mary Willborn.** We couldn't have done it without you!

Submitted **by Sue Stott**

Natural News

The *Natural News* is edited by **Rodger Patience** in the Development office (ext. 617, patience@fmnh.org) and **Erica Kelly** in the Finance Department (ext. 584, ekelly@fmnh.org). Submissions are welcome via e-mail or on disk in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect format. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon. Remember – write early and often!